

Howard County Times

THURSDAY, OCT. 23, 2014 | 173rd Year, No. 27
HOWARDCOUNTYTIMES.COM

Three recommendations for County Council

There are three givens in this year's Howard County Council races. First, at least two familiar faces will return as Democrats Mary Kay Sigaty and Jen Terrasa have no opposition. And there will be an open contest in District 1 as Courtney Watson is vacating her seat for a run for county executive.

In that District 1 race, newcomers-Democrat **Jon Weinstein** and Republican Kevin Schmidt both made it through competitive primaries. In what may be the most contested race for a council seat, both candidates

seem to be more than capable of replacing Watson on the council. But in weighing all factors, Weinstein, a candidate four years ago for House of Delegates, narrowly receives our endorsement. Weinstein's experience, particularly on the county's Spending Affordability Advisory Committee, earns him our nod.

In District 2, Democrat **Calvin Ball** is facing Republican newcomer Ralph Colavita, a retiree whose focus is on crime reduction and controlling high density housing. Ball has shown his leadership as a member of the coun-

cil's majority and has been a good representative for Columbia. He should be returned to office.

In the District 5 race, Republican incumbent **Greg Fox** is facing Alan Schneider, a local attorney. We're in accord with Schneider's platform stressing infrastructure upgrades to keep pace with development, but Fox has offered a dissenting and necessary voice as the lone Republican on the council. His role in encouraging transparency has been vital and he deserves to be reelected.